

Suicides by farmers in Uttar Pradesh

419. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of suicides of farmers in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the reasons why the farmers are pushed to take such a drastic action; and
- (c) the steps taken to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) As per information received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, there have been incidents of suicide by farmers in the State, but none of these is due to agriculture-related causes.

Hybrid rice

†420. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that multinationals and companies of private sector have their hold on the hybrid varieties of rice seeds;
- (b) if so, whether Government are making any efforts for providing better varieties of rice seeds to farmers at reasonable prices;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) the comparative position of rice productivity in India compared to China; and
- (e) the details of achievements of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) Private Sector Seed Industry including multinationals are producing and marketing large quantities of hybrid rice seeds. In 2006 the private seed companies had reportedly sold 11,600 tonnes of hybrid rice seeds. Government provides financial assistance @ Rs. 20 per kilogram for production of rice hybrid seeds, assistance @ Rs. 25 per kilogram for distribution of rice hybrid seeds and training of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.